



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps lays out plans for temporary fire stations, school classrooms

Joplin, Mo., June 12, 2011 – The Corps of Engineers Critical Public Facilities team yesterday made the first advertisement for the construction of a temporary home for two Joplin fire stations that were destroyed by the EF5 tornado that hit the area on May 22, marking a turning point in recovery efforts in the southwestern Missouri communities. This key project is one of several missions assigned to the Corps by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The two temporary fire stations will be to replace Firehouse Station #2 on South Maiden, near St. John's Regional Medical Center. The other will be for the restoration of services at Firehouse Station #4 on 15th Street near Delaware Street. The need for the return of these services is critical.

"Any time of the year poses a threat of fire or a need for some other emergency response. As hot and dry as things are right now, there are legitimate concerns of fires," explained Sean O'Donnell, Mission Manager for restoration of Critical Public Facilities "Combine the threat of fire with heat related injuries to those working to help the communities recover and you can see why it is important to return these services as close as possible to the level that they were prior to the tornado."

O'Donnell added that the services are being covered right now, but the temporary facilities will provide for improved response time and more efficient operations. Right now, fire crews and EMTs are working out of campers. The trucks are parked on the lot of their fire station.

The temporary facilities should be completed by mid-July and the fire crews will use them until their permanent facilities are completed. The temporary units will be a combination of tents and modular buildings.

The team is also meeting with Joplin Public School District officials to lay out a plan to have temporary classrooms and administrative offices in place by the start of the school year in August. These will primarily be modular units that will be set up on the school system's campuses that survived, or had minimal damage, from the tornado.

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